

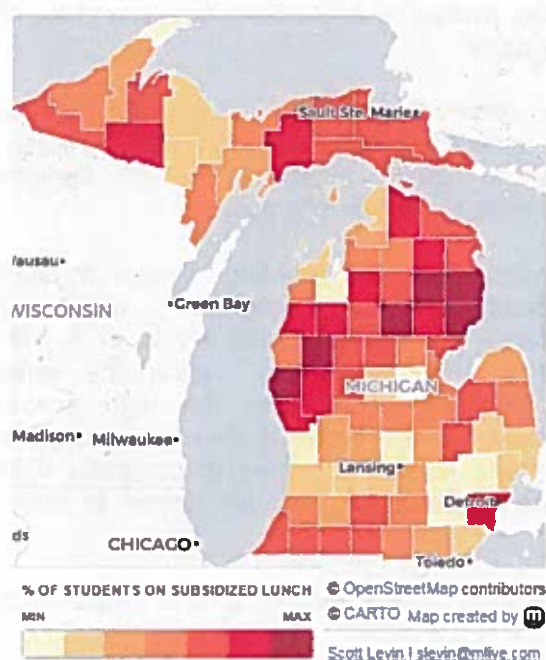
October 3, 2018

Rep. Tim Kelly
Education Reform Committee



As the President of Uplift, Inc. I am writing in support of INNOVATIVE DISTRICTS and competency-based education. Uplift, Inc. has been involved in competency-based learning the past 12 years. First, we piloted a high school. Now, we are piloting the 1st US Cisco Networking Academy, Automation Workz 4 U, located in a Public Library system.

Our goal is to create the largest reduction of poverty in the State of Michigan by preparing economically disadvantaged families to acquire the credentials to secure a high paying IT jobs. Currently, 45.9% of Michigan students are economically disadvantaged shown by the map below.

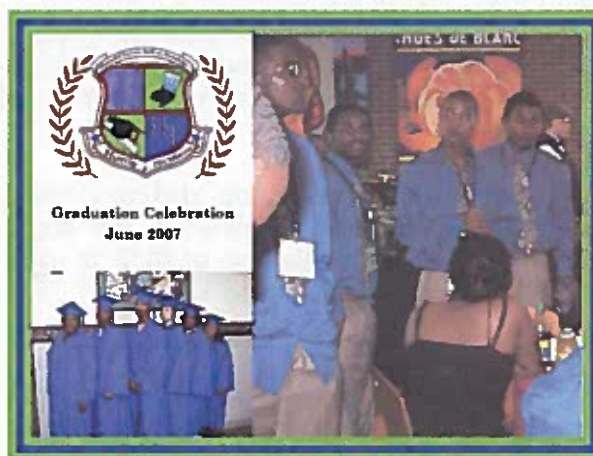


STUDENTS ARE NOT POOR, THEIR PARENTS ARE!!!! This high percentage of economically disadvantaged students means MICHIGAN EDUCATION did not prepare their parents for today's highly technical jobs. Nor did MICHIGAN EDUCATION prepare these parents for post-secondary training. Students usually repeat the lifestyle of their parents. Georgetown University Recovery 2020 report highlighted 65% of Michigan's jobs require post-secondary training to fully acquire the skills these jobs require.

Uplift, Inc. piloted a competency-based learning school, Hustle & TECHknow Preparatory High School, in 2006-2007 on contract with Detroit Public Schools. Hustle & TECHknow Preparatory High School, was located in the Compuware Headquarters with a focus on entrepreneurship and IT career training for high school dropouts and adjudicated youth, mainly male drug dealers.

Hustle & TECHknow Preparatory High School and achieved this success:

- Compiled Reading class that moved student collective Lexile reading levels 3.6 grades from 4.2 to 7.8
- Sent three quarterfinalists out of 79 to the National Vocabulary Championship
- Won Educational Program of the Year 2007, Automation Alley; First Wayne County school to win award
- Attendance Rate increased to 97%,
- Increased Collective Grade Point Average 1.612 points (from .738 to 2.35)
- 80% graduation rate, 100% postsecondary matriculation



Our School Demographics were:

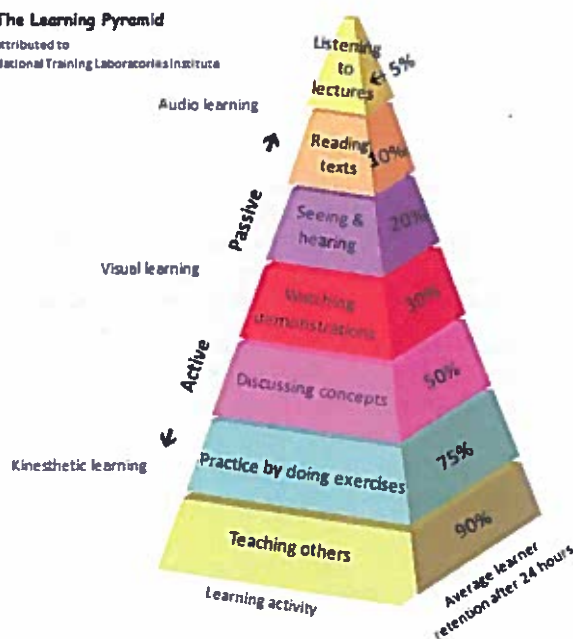
81% economically disadvantaged
50% Dropouts
70% Struggling Readers

70% males
50% initial GPA below 2.0
10% Medically Fragile

50 % Adjudicated Youth
50% Suburban Students

Competency-Based Learning allows for the multiple modalities of sensory within the learning pyramid, to accelerate retention while providing a consistent scoring to evaluate that retention.

The Learning Pyramid
attributed to
National Training Laboratories Institute



Competency-Based Learning allowed my teachers to execute specific remediation of skills for each individual student and evaluate their mastery of those skills. My students completed 2 years of curriculum in 1 year as they had access to their curriculum any time any place at their pace.

Competency-Based Learning allowed me, as the administrator, to track standard mastery daily to guide differentiation of lessons according to the learning pyramid.

Competency-Based Learning allowed my staff to design a reading program to move my students' reading 3.6 grade levels in 1 year utilizing the Learning pyramid while simultaneously completing the high school required courses. Students who read below the 7th grade level are unable to complete high school coursework. They are unable to make

that reading leap with pure textbooks and lecture.

Competency-Based Learning freed our school time to employ Career Tech lessons to prepare our economically disadvantaged students and their parents for IT Careers.

Currently, we are utilizing Competency-Based Learning to remediate economically disadvantaged parent to secure Cisco Networking IT certifications to enter the 18,000 high paying IT jobs open in the State of Michigan. When parents move out of poverty, they have time to assist in educating their k-12 children.

We have performed these pilots to show Competency-Based Learning works amongst economically disadvantaged students. Therefore, we are asking this committee to pass this INNOVATIVE DISTRICTS bill, before the end of 2018, to allow existing school districts as well as new charters to implement Competency-Based Learning.

Sincerely,

Ida Byrd-Hill
President